(xxi) Closer liaison is being maintained with State Police Departments, wherever required for prevention of crime on Railway tracks and bridges.

(xxii) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

The number of train accidents have come down to 414 for 2001-02 compared to 473 in 2000-01, reflecting a decline of 12.5%.

Responsibility of High Officials for Accidents

441. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed responsibilities on all railway General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers in case of any of the accidents held under their areas;

(b) if so, the division-wise details of major and minor railway accidents held in the month of December, 2002 and January, 2003;

(c) the details of losses suffered in such accidents and whether the steps taken to control such accidents proved to be futile;

(d) whether Government propose to establish Safety organizational setup in Railways;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Each accident is inquired into and responsibility is fixed as per the Inquiry Reports. Primary, secondary and blameworthy responsibility are fixed as brought out in the inquiry reports for lapses committed by individuals or officials immediately controlling the functional units. Safety norms include maintenance practices and standards, observance of rules and guidelines. Violation of any of these rules are identified and responsibility fixed accordingly. Stringent punishments are imposed on the officials.

(b) The position of accidents on Zonal Railways during the period December, 2002 and January, 2003 are as under:—

Railway	December 2002*	January 2003*
Central	5	4
Eastern	4	4
Northern	6	5
North Eastern	2	-
Northeast Frontier	6	4
Southern	2	2
South Central	4	9
South Eastern	1	1
Western	2	4
East Central	4	1
North Western	1	1
TOTAL:	37	35

*Provisional

(c) No, Sir. Damage to Railway property due to the train accidents during the period December, 2002 and January, 2003 was approximately Rs. 5.63 crores.

(d) to (f) There is already a safety department functioning on the Railways.

Rail projects launched by Prime Minister

442. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the three mega rail projects launched by the Prime Minister in December, 2002; and

(b) what is the target fixed for completion of these projects?